

Words for Ms. Cole Holladay

Opening

Welcome to the National Museum of Women in the Arts. I am Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, Chairman of the Board of the museum. I am thrilled to celebrate with you tonight this wonderful and wonderfully unique exhibit.

I'm equally thrilled that we are able to use our museum's space...to celebrate space. The National Museum of Women in the Arts (talk about the museum)

It is now my pleasure to introduce our distinguished speakers today who will tell you about some very exciting projects which deal with art and NASA. First, you will hear from NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin . . . then, Lambert Althaver (Althayver) Co-chairman of Art Train . . . and finally, Michelle Sidrane (Seedrain), CEO and President of US Media Holdings.

Many of you know of Dan Goldin's great record of accomplishment during his tenure as NASA Administrator. But that's only part of what makes a night like this possible. The other part is how much he appreciates art and supports artists. For that, we thank him.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dan Goldin.

Closing

Now after hearing about that book, I am happy to let you know that you won't leave this place empty handed! However, first we must eat, drink and celebrate art!

Thank you.

Talking Points
NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin

Reception at the
National Museum of Women in the Arts
Washington, DC
October 15, 1998

Thank you, Wilhelmina Cole Holliday, for that introduction . . . and for helping us bring our exhibit to this beautiful room, in this wonderful museum.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. I think a painting can be worth even more. So tonight, I'm going to keep my remarks short and let the art do the talking.

I would like to begin though, by acknowledging some special guests who are here tonight.

First . . . the other people on stage with me tonight. Wilhelmina Cole Holliday . . . Bert Althaver . . . and Michelle Sidrane.

I'd also like to acknowledge Bill Ivey . . . the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Harriet Fulbright . . . and Ed McBride from the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities.

And finally . . . the many artists who have contributed to the NASA Art Program and the women whose work is on display tonight.

Raise your hands so everyone knows who you are.

Ladies and gentlemen . . . we are here tonight to celebrate their efforts.

We are here to celebrate art and space. We are here to celebrate what binds the two together.

While some may not make the connection between art and space immediately . . . the artists in this room do. They know that there is a lot in common between marking a canvas . . . and canvassing Mars.

Both are about unbridled creativity . . . having the freedom to imagine what could be possible.

Both are about exploration . . . looking out at new worlds . . . but also using that perspective to look back at ourselves.

And finally, both are about inspiration . . . that same magical quality that comes from staring both at . . . the brush strokes in front of us . . . and the bright stars above us.

That's what I believe art and space both do. And we are very, very fortunate to be here tonight to recognize that.

But we are also very fortunate . . . as are people all over this country . . . because thanks to two projects it is my pleasure to announce . . . you don't necessarily have to go to a museum to make the art-space connection.

The first is a new book . . . *NASA and the Exploration of Space* . (Hold up book.)

It was put together by NASA's Chief Historian, Roger Launius . . . and the Curator of our Art Program, Bert Ulrich. They are both here tonight.

It has contributions from NASA astronauts past and present, like Bob Crippen who's here . . . and a foreword by an astronaut who fits both of those categories . . . John Glenn.

Finally, this book was published by Stewart Tabori & Chang, who is represented here tonight by Michelle Sidrane. You will hear from her in a moment.

The second project I have the honor of announcing tonight . . . is a NASA exhibit on the Art Train.

Bert Althaver, Co-chairman of the Art Train is here to tell you more about that . . . but just let me say that we are "Go For Launch" from Union Station on July 20, 1999.

On the 30th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing . . . this Art Train will be taking off.

It is a wonderful opportunity for people all over the country to explore art and space.

And it is my hope . . . that after looking at the art in the book and on the train . . . people are inspired to view more paintings . . . and maybe, visit more planets.

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Harriet Fulbright . . . and Ed McBride from the President's Committee on Arts and the Humanities.

Bob Crippen . . . a former NASA astronaut . . . is here tonight.

And finally . . . the many artists who have contributed to the NASA Art Program and **especially**, the women whose work is on display tonight.

I'd like these women artists to raise their hands so everyone knows who they are.

Ladies and gentlemen . . . we are here tonight to celebrate their efforts.

It used to be that the space program was a "Men's Club Only."

It wasn't only that if you wanted to be an astronaut you needed to be a man . . .

but it seemed like if you wanted to be **any** kind of scientist or engineer . . . you needed to be a man.

But these works of art symbolize two very important things.

First: In brilliant color, style and creativity . . . they show the hardest missions imaginable.

Those missions of the future are what NASA is about.

And if that's what you are about . . . you need to recruit the most capable people this country has to offer . . .

regardless of what they look like . . .

regardless of background . . .

and most definitely, regardless of gender.

In other words . . . to discover new worlds, we must break down old barriers.

That's why I'm so proud that NASA has more women astronauts than ever before . . . like Shannon Lucid.

That's why I'm so proud that Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle will also become the very first woman to command the Space Shuttle next year.

And that's why we're so proud . . . that there are more women scientists . . . engineers . . . and managers at NASA . . . than ever before . . . like Donna Shirley and Jennifer Harris.

Donna Shirley managed the tremendously successful Mars Pathfinder mission . . . and Jennifer Harris was Flight Director the day that spacecraft touched down on the Red Planet.

The second point I want to make about these women artists . . . is that through their work . . . they make the connection between art and space.

An exhibit like this allows people -- especially young people -- to see that there is a lot in common between marking a canvas . . . and canvassing Mars.

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That's what I believe art and space both do. And we are very, very fortunate to be here tonight to recognize that.

Tonight it is my pleasure to announce three more projects . . . so people won't necessarily have to go to a museum to make the art-space connection.

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The final announcement I'd like to make tonight is that NASA's latest commissioned artist is . . . world-renown photographer Annie Leibowitz.

It's doubly appropriate that we make that final announcement here tonight . . . because Annie Leibowitz's subjects will be Eileen Collins . . . and NASA's first woman astronaut, Sally Ride.

All of these projects and this great exhibit offer a wonderful and unprecedented opportunity for people to explore art and space . . . especially, young women who will no doubt grow up to be scientists, engineers and artists . . . maybe all three.

Because it is my hope . . . that after looking at the art . . .
these young women will be inspired to view more
paintings . . . and maybe even, visit more planets.

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Harriet Fulbright . . . and Ed McBride from the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities.

Bob Crippen . . . a former NASA astronaut . . . is here tonight.
(Former astronauts Mary Cleave and John Fabian may also be in attendance. We will let you know.)

And finally . . . the many artists who have contributed to the NASA Art Program and the women whose work is on display tonight.

I'd like the artists to raise their hands so everyone knows who they are.

Ladies and gentlemen . . . we are here tonight to celebrate their efforts.

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